

April 2, 1973

SENATOR F. LEWIS: When would you anticipate implementation after the survey?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, under the act, the appropriation would follow the following year.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Would there be any conflict between providing the \$75,000 as suggested by Senator Whitney to be taken over one year hence in an area that a survey has been made and the problem area has been identified?

SENATOR WARNER: Any conflict? I suppose the only conflict if there would be one, is if you want to establish a State operated school, they would probably have a tendency to become a permanent operation that we'd have to build around.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I learned quite a bit from listening to Senator Whitney. One thing I learned how to do and that's to turn compassion on and off when it suits my purpose. I learned it intellectually but emotionally I can't do it. I'm going to see if his compassion will extend to LB 235 tomorrow which will help all children. Now I'm not opposed to this bill. I'm not opposed to raising it. If it means expenditure of money, that couldn't matter less to me, but there was one statement that he made that disturbed me. Mental retardation is something which is not well understood. Children which are described as being mentally retarded are often the victims of poor hearing, poor eyesight and other things that are, flow from an organic rather than a mental cause, but the statement he made was this; these children are not retarded, they're just as smart as you or I. Based on that statement, I would say that maybe some retardation was being shown when the statement was made, not intellectual or mental retardation but emotional and compassionate retardation. I believe that when bills are sought to be defended on this floor, the man trying to defend the bill ought to think about what he says and weigh his words carefully. There are people in this body who may have children or relatives or friends who have children who are mentally retarded and these kind of statements sting a great deal because it still carries that notion of a stigma. I don't see any reason not to provide aid for children who are mentally retarded and I'm sure that Senator Whitney's not saying that this bill has merit because it's dealing only with children who can't hear rather than those who are mentally retarded. Now for his noble effort this afternoon and you must allow a man to change. You must allow a man to become more sensitive. I'm going to go the way that he wants me to go on this issue and I'm going to see if he'll accept my judgment on 235 tomorrow and let his compassion not be turned off like a water faucet although I know that a man who spends great amounts of time in the presence of great deals of money describes and defines compassion a little differently than a man who very rarely even sees large amounts of money.

SPEAKER: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, I just want to make a statement of a few loose ends. The, Senator Whitney said that the children out there, folks do not want them to come clear to Omaha and that's probably true. The only thing about it is that in your deaf schools, you do have skilled people that take care of children that are skillful at that because they've trained for that, spent their whole life at that and therefore, they same as become the second household

(End of Belt #13)